

## INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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INFO RUASTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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1. OVER WEEKEND AND FOR PAST TWO DAYS RIO PRESS FOCUSED ANEW ON NINE CHICOM CONVICTS, WIVES OF FOUR OF THEM HAVING ARRIVED JANUARY 29 FOR FORTNIGHT'S STAY. FEBRUARY 2 PAPERS FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING GIFT AND FLOWER-LADEN SPOUSES PROCEEDING TO JAIL YESTERDAY, IN COMPANY FONOFF AND POLICE OFFICIALS, FOR FIRST OF DAILY SCHEDULED VISITS WITH HUSBANDS. OTHER ITEMS TODAY'S PRESS INCLUDE:

2. REPORTED DENIAL BY FONOFF SPOKESMAN OF EARLIER RUMORS  
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GOB CONSIDERING IDEA EXCHANGING LOCAL PRISONERS FOR WESTERN MISSIONARIES HELD BY RED CHINA AND/OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS ELOY GUTIERREZ MENOYO REPORTEDLY HELD BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT. SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO OBSERVE TO NEWSMEN THAT WHILE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS NOT (REPEAT NOT) APPROACHED GOB THIS MATTER, ANY IRC PROPOSITION WHICH MIGHT BE MADE IN THIS SENSE WOULD BE DULY STUDIED WITHOUT, OF COURSE, IMPLYING COMMITMENT BRAZIL'S PART TO AGREE TO EXCHANGE.

25X1A

3. LONDON DISPATCHES TELL OF RECEIPT THERE BY FONMIM LEITAO DA CUNHA OF MESSAGES OF PROTEST RE CHICOMS FROM BRITISH ORGANIZATIONS AND WELL KNOWN PERSONS AND PURPORT TO QUOTE FROM HIS REPLIES TO MESSAGES TO EFFECT THAT THOSE EXPRESSING HUMANITARIAN CONCERN

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-2- 1600, FEBRUARY 2, 1965, FROM RIO DE JANEIRO

FOR CHINESE WHO WERE TRIED AND CONDEMNED IN REGULAR FASHION IN ACCORDANCE BRAZILIAN CONSTITUTION AND LAW MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY CONSIDER CASES OF THOUSANDS OF IMPRISONED CUBANS, NOT TO MENTION MANY OTHERS ALREADY SUMMARILY EXECUTED. FOMMIN'S ANSWER REPORTEDLY ALSO REFLECTED "AMAZEMENT" THAT ANY BRITISH CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE APPROACHED HIM ON SUBJECT WHILE HE ATTENDING CHURCHILL FUNERAL IN WHICH COMMUNIST CHINESE RUDELY REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE.

4. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS CARRIED EDITORIAL REMAKING UPON GOB'S  
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AWKWARD HANDLING THIS "SO SIMPLE" CASE OF VISITING WIVES, CRITICISING LONG DRAWN OUT BUREAUCRATIC DELAY IN GRANTING VISAS AND "VEXATIONS" TO WHICH WOMEN SUBJECTED AFTER ARRIVAL AS CERTAIN TO CONVINCE THEM "...OUR REGIME JUST LIKE THEIRS AND CASTELLO BRANCO SAME AS MAO TSETUNG OR FIDEL CASTRO". EDITORIAL ALSO COMMENTS THAT CONVICTIONS NINE CHICOM TRADE MISSION MEMBERS BASED LARGELY ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, ALTHOUGH IT CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT KEEP ENTIRELY OUT OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED ON LAST YEAR BY BRAZILIANS IMBUED WITH THEIR OWN KIND OF IDEOLOGICAL FANATICISM. PAPER CONCLUDED: "INNOCENT OR GUILTY, THEY WERE JUDGED AND SENTENCED BY THIS COUNTRY'S JURIDICAL SYSTEM. THEY REMAIN PRISONERS HERE, AND GROWING HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THEY WILL BE EITHER PARDONED OR EXPELLED. GORDON  
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